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PROVIDENCE, R.I., JULY 27 (UPI)--NEW YORK ATTORNEY JAMES B. DONOVAN WAS HERE TODAY IN AN ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE CUBAN PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO TO FREE 534 PRISONERS STILL HELD ON THE ISLAND.

DONOVAN SAID AT A NEWS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY THAT HE HOPED FOR AN AMNESTY IN THE "NEAR FUTURE." HE CAME HERE TO RECEIVE AN HONORARY DOCTORATE OF HUMANE LETTERS AT BRYANT COLLEGE'S CENTENNIAL COMMENCEMENT TODAY.

DONOVAN NEGOTIATED THE RELEASE OF 1,163 BAY OF PIGS INVASION SURVIVORS, OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS AND SCORES OF AMERICANS.

HE USED THE OCCASION OF THE CONFERENCE TO COMMENT ON "THE WINE IS BITTER," A NEWLY PUBLISHED BOOK BY DR. MILTON EISENHOWER, BROTHER OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT. IN THE BOOK EISENHOWER IS CRITICAL OF THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION'S HANDLING OF THE PRISONER EXCHANGE.

"DR. EISENHOWER WAS INVOLVED IN A DIFFERENT MISSION THAT NEVER GOT OFF THE GROUND. THE ADMINISTRATION WAS ALWAYS STRAIGHT FORWARD IN ITS DEALINGS WITH ME AND I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY CHANGE OF POLICY DURING THAT PERIOD." DONOVAN SAID

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